The report of the Committee is understood to have been submitted to the Government of Maharashtra.

Collapse of Northern Power Grid

3562. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Northern Power Grid collapsed causing severe inconvenience and financial loss to millions of people in Northern India;

(b) whether the failure occurred due to a breakdown in the Uttar Pradesh Grid Station attributed to substandard quality of equipment and work;

(c) whether the UP Minister of State for Power has highlighted certain irregularities in the contract for setting up the Northern Grid in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what are Government's views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A major grid disturbance resulted in the collapse of Northern Regional Grid on 2nd January, 2001 causing inconvenience and loss due to disruption of railway traffic and loss of production in industrial units. Several factors contributed to the grid collapse. One pole of Rihand-Dadri HVDC line was out of service from 14th December, 2000 due to multiple failure of converter transformers. This had restricted the transmission capability between the eastern parts, where all pit-head generation is located in western part of the Northern region where major load centres are located. On the night of 1st/2nd January, 2001, a number of 220 KV and 400 KV lines of UP transmision system had tripped and this imposed a severe strain on the transmission system. The transmission capability which had been impaired due to reeduced capability of the Rihand-Dadri HVDC line got further eroded due to tripping of major high voltage lines in UP system and this triggered grid separation and collapse.

An inquiry conducted by a committee headed by Chairman, CEA also revealed that there was not adequate maintenance of the substation equipments and transmission lines by the UPPCL which resulted in the tripping of the transmission lines of the State.

(c) and (d) The alleged irregularities in the contracts of transmission lines of UPPCL have been got investigated by the Government of Uttar Pradesh through IG (Vigilance). A further inquiry has been ordered by the State Government through the Vigilance Establishment of the State.

Recommendations of Coelho Committee

3563. *SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be* pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations of Coelho Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the recommendation of the Coelho Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) A Single Member Committee under Shri S.J. Coelho was appointed by the Government in September 1997 to make recommendations on the legal/ administrative/financial framework relating to private sector participation in power distribution. It submitted its report to the Government in March, 1998. The Committee analyzed the different models of private sector participation in distribution and the sequence of steps that would be needed to be undertaken for implementation of these models.

The Central Government has already implemented the most critical recommendations of the Coelho Committee as it has enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 with a view to rationalize tariffs, promote competition, efficiency, economy etc. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been constituted and has started functioning. This Act enables State Governments to